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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02270 231006 Z

15
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 OMB-01 SAJ-01 AF-10 EA-11 RSR-01 /138 W
---------- 000240
R 230933 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2270

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF
SUBJECT: SOVIET MIDDLE EAST POLICY

1. SOVIET AFFAIRS DIRECTOR DAGAN OF MFA TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 21 HE COULD NOT DISCERN ANY SERIOUS LINE CURRENTLY IN USSR' S POSTURE CONCERNING MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT SITUATION. HE COULD ONLY SUPPOSE THAT MIDDLE EAST HAD DROPPED QUITE LOW IN MOSCOW' S LIST OF PRIORITIES. HE STRESSED HE WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT SOVIET PROPAGANDA TOWARD ARABS, IN WHICH SOME LINE WAS ALWAYS CLEAR. CURRENT LINE IN THIS PROPAGANDA WAS MORE HOSTILE TOWARD US THAN ISRAEL, DAGAN ADDED, WARNING ARABS NOT TO TRUST WASHINGTON. LINE ALSO ALLOWED FOR TWO POWER INITIATIVES (US- USSR) IN MIDDLE EAST BUT EXPLICITLY OPPOSED THREE POWER ACTIONS, IN WHICH DAGAN SAW SOME SOVIET CONCERN ABOUT ARAB FLIRTATION WITH PEKING.

2. DAGAN MENTIONED THAT SOVIET LOW LEVEL APPROACHES TO ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES IN VARIOUS CAPITALS HAD BEEN CONTINUING ROUGHLY ONCE A MONTH. APPROACHES INVARIOUSLY WERE CLUMSY AND POINTLESS, AND DAGAN WAS PUZZLED BY THEM. THEY FREQUENTLY WERE NOT MERELY GRANDSTANDING IN FRONT OF
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

THIRD COUNTRY DIPLOMATS; IN FACT, IN RECENT MONTHS THEY HAD ALL BEEN PRIVATE APPROACHES. SOVIETS INVOLVED ALL SEEMED TO BE KGB AGENTS, ALTHOUGH NO RECRUITMENT ATTEMPTS HAD BEEN MADE IN APPROACHES. IT WAS ALWAYS SAME STORY: SOVIETS WOULD ASK SIMPLISTIC QUESTIONS ABOUT ISRAELI POLICY AND THEN WOULD LISTEN, ADDING NOTHING OF THEIR OWN.

3. DAGAN SAID SOVIETS HAD USED ALSO POLES, BULGARIANS, AND YUGOSLAVS
FOR APPROACHES OF THIS KIND DURING PAST SIX MONTHS.
ZURHELLEN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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BEIRUT
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